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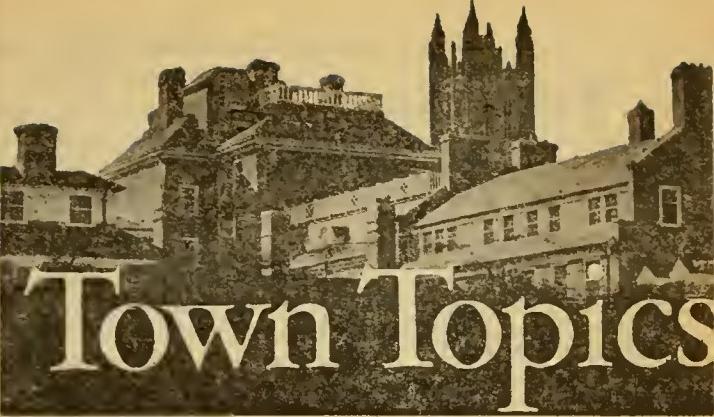
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Town Topics

WE NOMINATE

The 2,250 boys and girls who next Monday will flock to this community's four public schools to launch still another school year and to smash all previous enrollment records for the Princeton school system. Drawn from all walks of life, representing all racial groups and stirring elderly memories of the joys and heartbreaks of years gone by, this month's outpouring of scholars, including teen-age residents of nine neighboring districts, is one of the more fortunate juvenile groups in a nation where antiquated schools are becoming commonplace.

Princeton's schools may have considerable distance to travel before translating some educational ideals into achievement, but they are admirably prepared for a year which has been described by Federal authorities as a "year of crisis for tax-supported education." In spite of the countrywide shortage of trained teachers, local faculties are at peak strength, with nearly 110 qualified men and women awaiting the opening gong on the 8th. The curriculum at grade levels is better keyed to the needs of democratic society than prescribed plans of study in nearby metropolises and the physical plant is adequate.

A noteworthy development is the marked increase in the number of kindergarten and first-grade sections, for in Princeton and elsewhere lines are being drawn for education's new "battle of the bulge," the problems growing out of the phenomenal war-accelerated birthrate. This year's tots are the first war babies, born in 1941-1942, but, according to the United States Office of Education, they are only a hint of what is to come. Basing comparisons on 1945, officials see a jump of 40 per cent in the six-year old population by 1953 and three years later, in 1956, elementary grades will be swelled with a gain of 33 per cent by six to 13-year olds.

Indicative of the scope of the high school's individualized curriculum, that presents three basic courses, college preparatory, commercial and general, is the innovation of automobile driving for 16-year and 17-year olds, a step which may well add years to the lives of both parents and cars. Students entering high school for the first time will benefit from an orientation course, designed to bridge the gap between spoon-feeding and calculated exposure to broader areas of knowledge, while a survey of departmental plans indicates that the school is equal to the task of convincing often recalcitrant youth that nothing can be more productive than education.

For giving all Princetonians a sense of purpose as they see children of all ages preparing for an uncharted future; for lending substance to, and re-emphasizing the importance of, the ideal of the equality of educational opportunity; for their tremendously wonderful potentialities; Princeton's schoolchildren are

PRINCETON'S
MEN AND WOMEN OF THE WEEK
September 7-13, 1947

Town Topics

Published Every Thursday throughout the Year

DONALD C. STUART, JR.

DAN D. COYLE

Editors and Publishers

Mailed without charge every week to every home in Princeton Borough and Township.

Advertising Rates on Application.

Box 371 Princeton, N. J. Telephone 2326

Vol. II, No. 26 September 7-13, 1947

Topics of the Town

Fall Season Nears. Although Labor Day marks a change of pace for most towns and cities in the nation as shore and mountain vacationists bring the Summer season to a close, the upswing in activity is most sharply pronounced in a community where educational institutions dominate. The influx of their enrollments in mid-September (estimated to be nearly 5,000 this year) sends the town's population totals skyrocketing, keeps the housing shortage acute, crowds theaters and restaurants, booms store sales—in brief, creates the energy on which Princeton runs.

With this as the setting, the last four months of 1947 would clearly be a busy time for Princetonians, yet one which would in most instances primarily be following a familiar pattern on an increased tempo. As the Fall season nears, these events might be counted upon to dominate the scene:

Paced by a record-breaking 3,600 on the University campus, educational institutions were ready to top last year's peak figures. Far below the college level, kindergarten, first and second grades in public, private and parochial schools gave evidence that more records were in the making. Jam-packed with "war babies" who began working the

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stork overtime just before Pearl Harbor, their classes would be a continuing crest in school populations for the next two decades.

The back-to-the-classroom movement would begin Monday in public and parochial schools, with private institutions following during the next fortnight. The first of the week would also see important decisions handed down in both the Township and Borough Halls: in the former, personnel of a housing committee and answers to four veterans' organization questions about a low-cost housing project; in the latter, consideration for final passage (after public hearing) of the ordinance to rezone part of lower Nassau Street as a business district. This step in particular would reflect the eastward trend of the community's growth.

The first October Saturday would
(Continued on page four)

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It's New to Us

The start of a new season, shopping-column-wise, seems to be the time to clear up and make a few points in our own behalf, so if you will bear with us briefly, here we go. The questions which brought all this on are, we think, obvious in the replies.

1) We are *not* at any time, for any reason paid by anyone whose anything we write about. This column is strictly a service (it hopes) to seller, buyer or both.

2) We are delighted to be told about ideas which anyone considers worth writing up. A postcard to Box 371 will bring us running to investigate.

3) Our write-ups are *not* confined to advertisers, although if there is any conflict of interests, we naturally give them preference.

4) To the best of our ability and knowledge, we carry out the title of this column in the items which we describe. If, upon occasion, something has been new to us and not to our readers, our apologies. The same goes for future possibilities.

Are there any further questions?

Pint-sized Dungarees. This paragraph belongs in the judging-others-by-ourselves department. Having covered New York in search of small dungarees without success, we were chagrined but happy to find that if we had followed our own oft-given advice, and shopped first in Princeton, considerable effort could have been saved.

On the chance that other mothers are as fond of dungareed young offspring as we are, we hasten to let them know that The Boys' Clothesline (57 Palmer

(Continued on page eight)

NEARLY EVERYONE has had a Toni Home Permanent. Have you had yours? Ask us for this professional-type plastic set complete with curlers. Does not scorch or burn the hair. Everything necessary to give yourself a complete permanent. \$2. Thorne the Druggist, 168 Nassau Street.

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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page two)

bring another pleasant, familiar scene. For the 78th season, football would be played at Princeton, and the huge, impassive stone-face of Palmer Stadium (completed 1914) would wear an almost discernible smile as it welcomed carefree thousands to the home of the Tiger. By the moment the clock runs out on the Dartmouth game in the gathering dusk of November 22, an estimated 200,000 will have packed Princeton on six Saturdays, boosting sales in virtually every line of commodity and merchandise. The Pennsylvania and Yale contests loom as prospective sell-outs.

October would also bring the annual Community Chest campaign, with the 1947 goal clear evidence that a \$100,000 budget is just around the corner. A short six years ago, some \$66,000 sufficed.

Election activities will take a new slant this Fall, with Princetonians due to hear as much about public questions on the ballot as they are about the merits of the various candidates. The vote on a new constitution for the State, although destined to draw another large majority here, will be widely discussed. Borough residents will determine whether they wish places of amusements (including bowling alleys, pool halls, theaters) to operate on Sundays, while Township people will be asked whether they wish the sale of alcoholic beverages to continue on Sundays in their municipality.

Locally, but one contest exists: Democrat Walter L. Coan will seek to give (Continued on page seven)

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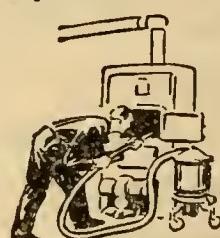
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Calendar of the Week

Saturday, September 6th

8:30 p.m.: "Counselor - at - Law," starring Paul Muni; McCarter Theater.

Sunday, September 7th

7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:00 a.m.: Mass, St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church.

11:00 a.m.: "All Ye That Labor," the Rev. Dr. Frank S. Niles; Union Service for First and Second Presbyterian Churches; First Church.

"A Confession of Faith," the Rev. Lynn H. Corson; Methodist Church.

Sermon, the Rev. Dr. Arthur L. Kinsolving; Trinity Episcopal Church.

"Man," Lesson-Sermon; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Sermon, the Rev. Milton J. Nauss; Lutheran Service; Westminster Choir College Chapel.

Friends Service of Worship; Murray-Dodge Hall, University Campus.

Noon: House-to-House Collection of Salvage Paper, sponsored by Princeton Post No. 76, American Legion.

8:15 p.m.: Evening Service; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Monday, September 8th

Opening of Public Schools in both Borough and Township.

Opening of St. Paul's Parochial School.

8:00 p.m.: Township Committee Meeting, Township Hall.

Tuesday, September 9th

8:00 p.m.: Borough Council Meeting, Borough Hall.

Wednesday, September 10th

8:15 p.m.: Mid-Week Service; First Church of Christ, Scientist.

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News of the Theatres

The Playhouse

Crossfire (Fri., Sat.) takes anti-Semitism as its theme and attempts to prove melodramatically that blind racial hatred, even in a democracy, is like a loaded gun. A group of G.I.'s murder an inoffensive civilian and the hunt is on for a uniformed pathological killer. With Robert Young and Robert Ryan.

Mother Wore Tights (Sun. thru Wed.) is tailored in Technicolor to the admirable dimensions of Betty Grable, Hollywood's highest paid siren (\$208,000 per annum.) Occasional musical interludes, with an appeal for lovers of old-time vaudeville, prevent this off-the-cob story of backstage life from descending into the realm of King Korn.

The Kiss of Death (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) a fast-moving, violent melodrama, is Princeton's "Picture of The Week." Filmed all over Manhattan, the Bronx and Fort Lee, N. J., its solid core of reality—hotels, rooming houses, courts, prisons and night clubs—offsets the exaggeration of the action and of the players' emoting. With Victor Mature, Brian Donlevy and Richard Widmark.

Garden Theatre

New Orleans (Fri., Sat.) features Woody Herman, Louis Armstrong and their bands. Only recommended for confirmed Basin Street addicts.

Green for Danger (Mon., Tues., Wed.) is proof that the British, J. Arthur Rank in this instance, can also make mediocre pictures. Frequent injections

(Continued on page eight)

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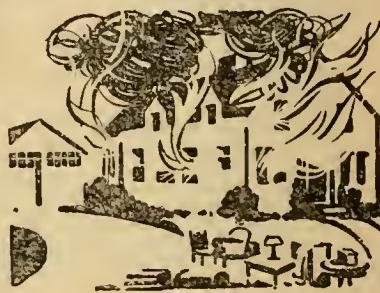
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TOPICS OF THE TOWN

(Continued from page four)

his party an even share of the six councilmanic seats by defeating either Republican James L. Briner or his G.O.P. running mate, John W. Stalker. In the county, Bertrand L. Gulick, Jr. is the G.O.P. nominee for sheriff, while Edward A. Thorne will give Princeton the representation it so thoroughly needs on the board of freeholders if his campaign is successful.

All along the line, prices seemed destined for further unbelievable but apparently unstoppable increases, with food and textiles leading the way. Here & there, unexpected surpluses developed (two unconnected items, automobile tires and liquor, were available in large quantities, lower-priced than they were when the year began). But in most instances, costs were still going up and stories were in print that certain parts of the nation would experience shortages akin to wartime years.

Those who did more than skim over the headlines and turn to the department store ads, sport and social pages found much cause for concern in the international situation. Princeton's own Senator H. Alexander Smith was among the Congressmen making a first-hand study of Europe's ills.

In the Fall of 1947, the question of atomic warfare played little or no part in the every-day scene, even in Princeton, where possibly more knowledge of the horrendous implications of such a maelstrom was concentrated than anywhere else. Even the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, which used Princeton as headquarters from which to describe a war that would mean the end of civilization as we know it by 1955, had something to say about it only once or twice a year.

But by & large, the beginning of the third year of the post-war era looked bright. Shortages were numerous and

prices were often a real problem, but laborer, tradesman, schoolteacher, office worker and industrialist all were making a lot more money than they were a few years ago. Meat might once again be scarce this Winter, fuel to heat the house might require some careful planning, car dealers might still have long waiting lists, but from nylons to television sets, there was increasing evidence of a choice of post-war luxuries and wonders.

It was good to be alive and it was good to live in Princeton.

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IT'S NEW TO US

(Continued from page three)

Square) has a sizeable shipment of them. Coming in sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7, they are authentic and appealing replicas of the real thing with fly-fronts, rivets in the proper spots, etc. Only the addition of the straps essential to small figures distinguishes them from grown-up models.

"Comet Scooters." Don't think for a minute that these are toys, although their small size and cheery red hue gives them all the appeal of a shiny new plaything. They are a form of motor bike just received at Kline's Service Station, Nassau Street, and they mean business.

Run by a 1½ horsepower gasoline engine, they get over 70 miles to the gallon and hit the very adequate speed of 35 m.p.h. Operating them is slightly tricky at first but essentially simple; accelerator and brake are each on a handlebar, with foot effort necessary only for starting purposes.

We know whereof we speak about the comparative ease of running the scooter because we tried! Since Mr. Kline (who was watching) may read this, we won't claim to have been an expert right off the bat; but the feel was definitely coming, and we are convinced that our success would be complete on a second try.

It is, incidentally, necessary to have a driver's license, plates and night lights, car-style. For commuters, errand-runners, delivery boys and people who buy jalopies just to get around, however, the "Comet Scooter" should prove less expensive to buy, more economical to run and far easier to keep.

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NEWS OF THE THEATRES

(Continued from page six)

of humor fail to salvage a medium-budget mystery concerned with doctors, nurses and an anesthetizing device that induces Big Sleep. Alastair Sim is the perfect prototype of the befuddled, complacent Scotland Yard representative.

Cynthia (Thurs., Fri., Sat.) is a folksy, wordy account of a sickly high school girl's efforts to gain a place in the younger set's "social swim." With Mary Astor, George Murphy and Elizabeth Taylor.

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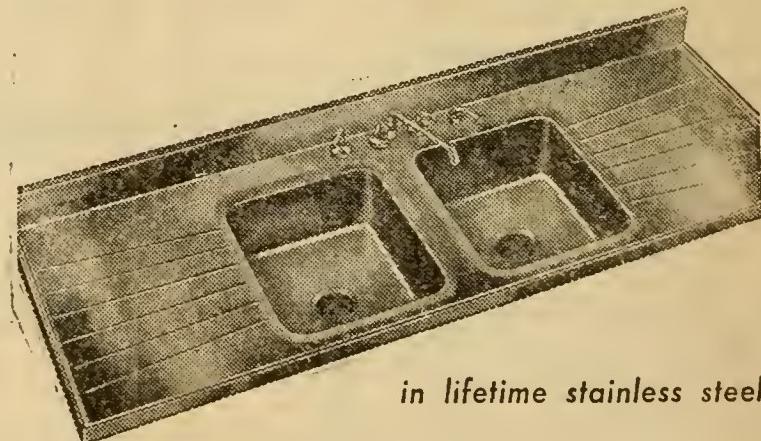
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